

Message Text

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TO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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FOLLOWING REPEAT TOKYO 1857 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ERDA
GERMANTOWN BRASILIA BONN 06 FEB

QUOTE

UNCLAS TOKYO 1857

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, JA, BR

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL JAPAN/BRAZIL NUCLEAR COOPERATION

1. IDENTICAL STORIES IN JAPANESE PRESS, INDICATING
RELIANCE ON GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE, REPORT THAT DURING
CURRENT VISIT OF BRAZILIAN MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY,
DR. SHIGEAKI UEKI, TO JAPAN, MITI MINISTER KOMOTO ASKED
UEKI ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF JAPAN PROSPECTING FOR URANIUM
DEPOSITS IN BRAZIL. UEKI RESPONDED NEGATIVELY,
APPARENTLY ON BASIS THAT BRAZIL/FRG NUCLEAR AGREEMENT
PRECLUDED JAPANESE EXPLORATION ACTIVITY. HOWEVER, UEKI
LEFT DOOR OPEN BY SAYING THAT BRAZIL MIGHT ALLOW JAPAN
TO RECEIVE BRAZILIAN URANIUM IF JAPAN COULD PROVIDE
NUCLEAR POWER TECHNOLOGY TO "REPLACE THE TECHNOLOGY TO
BE PROVIDED BYWEST GERMANY."

2. UEKI/KOMOTO TALKS ARE PART OF WIDE RANGING EFFORTS
BY BRAZIL TO ENCOURAGE JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN INDUSTRIAL
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DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, INCLUDING SIX HYDROPOWER STATIONS

AND EXPLORATION OF OIL RESOURCES. BRAZILIAN MINISTER
IS SAID TO BE SEEKING 324 MILLION DOLLARS IN JAPANESE
INVESTMENT FUNDS.

3. COMMENT: EXACT MEANING OF UEKI/KOMOTO EXCHANGE IN
UNCLEAR BUT COULD BE PLOY BY BRAZIL TO KEEP PRESSURE
ON FRG TO FURNISH AS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AS POSSIBLE.
EMBASSY VERIFIED SUBSTANCE OF PRESS REPORTS THROUGH
CONVERSATION WITH KOSUKE YAMAMOTO, DIRECTOR, NUCLEAR
INDUSTRY DIVISION, MITI. YAMAMOTO VOLUNTEERED INFO THAT HE
HAD ACCOMPANIED UEKI ON VISIT TO TOKAI-MURA FEBRUARY
5. WHEN ASKED, YAMAMOTO STATED THAT UEKI WAS SHOWN
SPENT FUEL REPROCESSING PLANT.
HODGSON UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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